

A FOR AND AGAINST ESSAY

A "for and against" essay is a formal piece of writing in which a topic is considered from opposing points of view. Both sides are presented and discussed objectively.

In this type of essay there are at least 4 paragraphs because the body of the essay is usually divided in two paragraphs. So there are 2 possible structures

- A. If you support the statement
 - 1- General introduction
 - 2- Arguments against
 - 3- Arguments for
 - 4- Conclusion
- B. If you are against the statement
 - 1-General introduction
 - 2-Arguments for
 - 3-Arguments against
 - 4-Conclusion

1. **Introduction.** You should start with a general statement but no arguments or opinions are given in this paragraph. You can use some of the following introduction techniques:

- Make a general statement about the topic.
- Ask a general question about the subject.
- Ask a rhetorical question
- Start with a quotation
- Explain that there are arguments for and against this topic.

EXAMPLE:

"Recent research shows that the excessive use of mobile phones, computers and other devices is causing serious damage to our health but are we really aware of the amount of time we spend using those devices?"

2. **Presenting and discussing arguments**

- Present arguments for a view that is the opposite of your own (if you are going to take a side) and explain the evidence that supports that opinion.
- Present arguments and evidence for the other point of view (the one you are going to support)

3. **Conclusion.** You can state your opinion or give a balanced consideration of the topic making some reference to the arguments given. No new information or arguments should be introduced here.

USEFUL LANGUAGE

1. To order a sequence of arguments

- Firstly/ First of all - secondly – finally
- To begin/start with - then/next - finally/eventually
- Let's begin/start by pointing out - and besides / in addition to this /
- furthermore / moreover / what is more ...
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2. To contrast arguments

- On one hand – on the other hand.
- Some people think ... while others say ...
- However / Nevertheless / still
- The fact that... contradicts the belief/idea that...
- Although....
- Even so
- In contrast, ...

3. To make general statements

- Everyone knows that...
- There is no doubt that
- People/experts/scientist/skeptics/critics say/claim/suggest/argue/maintain/believe/point out/agree/hold that...
- There are many reasons for ...

4. To give one's opinion

- In my opinion / view ...
- From my point of view
- It seems to me that ...
- I (don't) think / believe that ...
- I (don't) agree that
- I have the feeling / the impression that ...
- What I think is that...
- I am (not) sure that ...
- I am (not)convinced that
- I cannot share this view because..
- I wouldn't say that...
- That seems/doesn't seem reasonable.
- The main/greatest/first advantage/disadvantage/drawback of
- One (very convincing) point/argument in favour of / against

5. For the conclusion

- In conclusion
- To sum up
- All things considered,
- Taking everything into account/consideration,